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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/516,998 | LAGARDE ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | RAKESH K. DHINGRA | 1792 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicant's response dt. 01/22/09 to Non-Final Office action.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date <u>4/22/09</u> . 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Applicant's Fax. dt. 22nd April 2009.</u> |
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/Rakesh K Dhingra/
Examiner, Art Unit 1792

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Eric S. Hyman on 4/22/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A device for producing a plasma in a chamber comprising means for producing an energy in the microwave spectrum for the excitation of the plasma, said means comprising at least one basic plasma excitation device comprising a coaxial applicator of microwave energy, of which one end is directly connected to a production source of microwave energy, the other end being directed to the gas to be excited within the chamber, wherein each basic excitation device is arranged in the wall of the chamber, ~~each~~ said applicator comprising a central core which is substantially flush with the interior surface [level] of the wall of the chamber, the central core and the thickness of the wall of the chamber being separated by a space coaxial with the central core, this space being completely filled at least at one end of ~~each~~ said applicator with a solid dielectric material such that said material is substantially flush with the interior surface [level] of the wall of the chamber.

Add new dependent Claims 14, 15 as follows:

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Claim 14 (New) The device of claim 1, wherein a common single source of microwave energy is connected to said one end of a plurality of coaxial applicators.

Claim 15 (New) The device of claim 1, wherein a source of microwave energy is connected respectively to said one end of each coaxial applicator.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-15 allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 – Closest prior arts [Lagarde et al (JP 2001-102200, US equivalent 6,407,359), and Wu (US 6,114,811)] do not teach claim limitation “comprising a coaxial applicator of microwave energy, of which one end is directly connected to a production source of microwave energy, the other end being directed to the gas to be excited within the chamber, wherein each basic excitation device is arranged in the wall of the chamber, said applicator comprising a central core which is substantially flush with the interior surface of the wall of the chamber, the central core and the thickness of the wall of the chamber being separated by a space coaxial with the central core, this space being completely filled at least at one end of said applicator with a solid dielectric material such that said material is substantially flush with the interior surface of the wall of the chamber.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RAKESH K. DHINGRA whose telephone number is (571)272-5959. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 -6:00 (Monday - Friday).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Parviz Hassanzadeh can be reached on (571)-272-1435. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Rakesh K Dhingra/
Examiner, Art Unit 1792

/Parviz Hassanzadeh/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1792